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RR RUEHBC RUEHDA RUEHDE RUEHIHL RUEHKUK

DE RUEHAK #1160 1351417

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

R 151417Z MAY 07

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2104

INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE

RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC

RUEHAK/USDAO ANKARA TU

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP:PDUSDP/ISA:EUR/ISA:NESA//

RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

RUEUITH/ODC ANKARA TU

RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J-3/J-5//

RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK

RHMFIUU/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE

RHMFISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL

RHMFIUU/425ABS IZMIR TU//CC//

RHMFIUU/39ABG INCIRLIK AB TU

RUEPGAB/MNF-I C2X BAGHDAD IZ

UNCLAS ANKARA 001160

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PTER PREL PGOV TU IZ

SUBJECT: Update on PKK Violence (April 2007)

REF: ANKARA 750 and previous

(U) Sensitive but unclassified - please protect accordingly.

¶1. (SBU) This is another in a series of periodic reports on PKK violence in Turkey. Our primary sources for these reports are mainstream Turkish press services, such as the Anatolian News Agency, and international wire services. While these are more reliable than most Turkish press sources, they are not necessarily unimpeachable. A major source is the Turkish Armed Forces General Staff (TGS) website which documents contacts/clashes with the PKK. Press services sympathetic to the PKK, such as Neu-Isenburg People's Defense Forces and Firat News Agency, tend to report higher numbers of the Turkish Security Forces casualties and are often otherwise unreliable.

¶2. (U) In April 2007, 17 security personnel died in clashes with the PKK or in IED explosions. In addition, a village guard drowned as he was crossing a river during an operation in Sirnak province. During the same period 16 security officials were wounded in action (WIA). One villager was injured by a PKK-planted IED in Sirnak province.

¶3. (U) One PKK terrorist died when the explosive he was preparing went off in Mersin. The body of another PKK terrorist was found in the field as operations were going on in Bitlis. 47 PKK terrorists were arrested.

¶4. (U) The Turkish military reported 27 clashes between security forces and PKK terrorists in the region. Security forces unearthed dozens of PKK shelters and caves and seized booby-trapped land mines; other explosives, including A-4 and TNT; Kalashnikov rifles; cartridges; hand grenades; pistols; night vision binoculars; TV sets; satellite antennas; and radios.

¶5. (U) Activity as reported by TGS appears to be significantly higher for April than the previous month:

CLASHES NUMBER

March 2007 13 clashes

April 2007 38 clashes

CASUALTIES

Security Forces

March 2007 5 KIA, 4 WIA

April 2007 18 KIA, 16 WIA

PKK

March 2007 9 KIA, 18 captured/arrested

April 2007 2 KIA, 47 captured/arrested

CACHES RECOVERED

March 2007 61

April 2007 109

WILSON